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MINISTRY OF LAW

New Delhi, the 29th January, 1954

THE PRESS (OBJECTIONABLE MATTER) AMENDMENT
ORDINANCE, 1954

No. 4 OF 1954

An Ordinance to amend the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act,
1951.

WHEREAS a Bill to amend the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951, has been introduced in Parliament but has not yet been passed;

AND WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action to give effect to the amendments proposed in the said Bill;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Ordinance may be called the Press (Objectionable Matter) Amendment Ordinance, 1954.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Act LVI of 1951 to be temporarily amended.—The Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) shall, during the period of operation of this Ordinance, have effect subject to the amendments specified in sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

3. Amendment of section 1, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 1 of the principal Act, in sub-section (3), for the words “two years” the words “four years” shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 2, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 2 of the principal Act, in clause (k), the following words shall be inserted at the end, namely:—

“or any news-sheet which does not contain the name of the printer and the publisher.”

5. Amendment of section 20, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 20 of the principal Act,—

(a) in sub-section (3), for the words “a list of persons”, the words “a list for the entire State of persons” shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(4A) In any inquiry under this section, it is the duty of the jury to decide whether any newspaper, news-sheet, book or other document placed before it contains any objectionable matter and it is the duty of the Sessions Judge to decide whether there are sufficient grounds for making an order for the demanding of security or for directing any security which has been deposited or any part thereof to be forfeited to the Government or for directing further security to be deposited.”

6. Amendment of section 23, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 23 of the principal Act, for the words and figures “Any person against whom an order is passed by a Sessions Judge under section 4, section 5, section 7 or section 8 may, within sixty days of the date of such order, prefer an appeal to the High Court,” the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“The competent authority or any other person aggrieved by an order passed by a Sessions Judge under section 4, section 5, section 7 or section 8 may, within sixty days of the date of such order, prefer an appeal to the High Court.”

7. Amendment of section 29, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 29 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), the words “in the territories to which this Act extends” shall be inserted at the end.

RAJENDRA PRASAD,
President.

K. V. K. SUNDARAM,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.